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Frighening Soviet Threat To United States Seen by Bush

George Bush, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency and former chief of the U. S. liaison office in Peking, told the Woman's Club members yesterday that he believes "there is an inordinately complicated and frighening Soviet threat to the United States."

Bush cited the Russian defense buildup and attention to civil defense as evidence to support his theory.

The percentage of gross national product spent on defense by the Russians is more than twice that spent by the United States, he said. The Russians are doing more research in exotic fields such as the use of laser. In addition, they have set in motion a growing civil defense program.

"I think that the Soviets know that the United States will not make a first strike on them and if you accept that premise, why would they be defending their population unless it is their intention at some time to make a first strike against us?"

Meantime, "We are fat, we are dumb, sitting around worrying about creature comforts with standards of living unprecedented, unconcerned about foreign affairs or the Soviet threat," he continued.

BUSH SPEAKS from a decade of involvement in the American government, which has included posts as congressman from Texas, ambassador to the United Nations, chairman of the Republican National Committee, and the last two important jobs in China and with the CIA.

He said he favors talks with Russia but "our negotiations must be conducted from strength."

If the Soviets are genuinely interested in detente, why then are they creating political turmoil in Africa through "Cuban surrogates?" he asked.

All this should be borne in mind when decisions are made regarding the United States' relations with China, said Bush. He poked fun at actress Shirley MacLaine, who, he said, "gushed euphorically in with her nutty entourage" and two weeks later "gushed euphorically out again" proclaiming the glories of the present regime.

Had she stayed longer, she would have seen, as Bush and his wife did, that the Chinese have paid a terrible price in freedom for the things the Communist regime have brought them.

IT IS IMPORTANT, said Bush, in view of the Russian situation, that the United States attempt to bring about full diplomatic relations with China, but Bush was hesitant to advise meeting the People's Republic of China's demands that the United States withdraw all troops from Taiwan, withdraw recognition of Taiwan and abrogate its mutual defense treaty with Taiwan. It would "lock in" progress that has been made so far, would signal the Soviet Union of a closer bond between the United States and China and solve other problems, but would not result in a strong trade relationship with China, said Bush.

Before he went to China, Bush said he wondered about the reality of the hostility between the Soviet Union and China and he discovered that it is very real.

China looks at the United States "not with affection for democracy or freedom but in its own interest. The Chinese see us as the only power capable of standing up to the Soviet Union. They watch our foreign policy and they wonder, 'Will the United States stand up for freedom around the world and will it continue to be a credible counterforce to the Soviet Union?'"

And some recent proposals and decisions, including the Panama Canal treaties and the B-1 bomber question, may lead China and other nations to wonder if the United States is drawing back.

"WE MUST DEMONSTRATE that we intend to battle for freedom," said Bush.

The Chinese are fond of telling visitors, "If you need time, you have it," and Bush believes this should be a key to American development of its relations with China, rather than a hasty acceptance of three unacceptable terms. Instead, the United States should move cautiously, hoping for negotiations that will lead to a permanent, strong relationship.

Bush was defensive of the CIA, which was the victim of "barrelfuls of allegations in which there was no truth whatsoever."

He was warmly received by the club, which applauded heartily when he expressed the view that "it is absolutely essential to the survival of the United States and freedom in the world that we have a foreign intelligence capability second to none."

THE REALITY of the CIA "is so different from the myth," said Bush, describing his reaction to the agency when he walked in as its director during the Ford administration. There are more than 1,200 persons with master's and doctor's degrees, the best cartographers and demographers and some of the finest scholars in the nation in its ranks, he said.

It is vitally important that the president have the advice and information furnished by the CIA on such things as terrorism, which Bush called "the new form of anarchy," said the former agency director.

It troubles him that the press appears to think that if it can get its hands on a classified document that it should be able to determine whether or not publication of the document would endanger national security.

And, "It is essential to the United States if we are going to measure the intentions of foreign leaders that we have human intelligence."